

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

5 entitled: PROCESS FOR THE STERILE PACKAGING OF A
 PROSTHETIC IMPLANT MADE OF POLYETHYLENE

10 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

 In order to package a prosthetic implant made of polyethylene in
 sterile manner, this implant is placed in a flexible, gas-impermeable
 sachet adapted to be closed, a vacuum is created in this sachet
 before it is hermetically closed, this sachet is placed in a gas-
15 impermeable envelope adapted to be closed, an inert gaseous
 atmosphere is formed in the envelope, the envelope is closed
 hermetically, and the assembly formed by the implant, the sachet
 and the envelope is exposed to radiation.

 The invention is more particularly applicable to the packaging of
20 implants made of high density polyethylene.